

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 09101 281034Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3905

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 9101

NODIS

EYES ONLY FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY BENJAMIN READ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJECT: AMBASSADORIAL CHANGE IN PORTUGAL

1. FOLLWOING ARE MY VIEWS ON MATTERS YOU RAISED IN OUR SATURDAY TELECON.

2. THE POLITICAL SCENARIO: BEST GUESS IS THAT SOARES' GOVERNMENT WILL FALL OR RESIGN IN EARLY DECEMBER. EANES WILL IMMEDIATELY NAME A SUCCESSOR, POSSIBLY SOARES, BUT MORE LIKELY AN "INDEPENDENT." HE MAY OR MAY NOT DECIDE ON ELECTIONS NEXT SPRING. IN ANY EVENT THE IMMEDIATE FLAP SHOULD BE OVER BY THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND THE ASSEMBLY WILL NORMALLY BE IN RECESS IN JANUARY. I SEE NO LIKELIHOOD OF MILITARY INTERVENTION, AND JANUARY IS TRADITIONALLY A SLOW MONTH HERE.

3. MY DEPARTURE: THE END OF DECEMBER IS MOST APPROPRIATE.

4. SUCCESSOR'S ARRIVAL: I SEE NO NEED TO RUSH. IN FACT, TOO MUCH HASTE WILL BE INTERPRETED HERE AS (A) PANIC OR (B) A CHANGE IN POLICY. I HAVE A TOP FLIGHT DCM WHO IS FLUENT IN PORTUGUESE, KNOWS THE LEADERSHIP AND  
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HAS BEEN HERE FOR THREE YEARS. LANGUAGE ABILITY IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN EARLY ARRIVAL. UNLESS MY SUCCESSOR IS CURRENTLY AT THE 4 LEVEL IN PORTUGUESE I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE SLOW MONTH OF JANUARY BE USED FOR A REFRESHER COURSE.

5. ANNOUNCEMENT: THE MOST STRAIGHTFORWARD WAY IS THE

BEST. MY ASSIGNMENT AS WELL AS THAT NTSUIESSTR SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED WHILE I AM HERE SO I, NOT HE, WILL TAKE THE FLAK FROM THE LEFT. THAT FLAK WILL BE FAR LESS OF A DESTABILIZING FACTOR THAN THE EXPLOITATION SA CARNEIRO AND THE FAR RIGHT WOULD MAKE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MY REMOVAL AND A SUCCESSOR WITHOUT AN ONWARD ASSIGNMENT FOR ME. THEY WOULD CLAIM AMERICAN POLICY HAS SHIFTED TO THE RIGHT, AND WE WOULD BECOME AN INSTRUMENT OF THEIR POLARIZATION STRATEGY. BEST TIME FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE THE SECOND WEEK IN DECEMBER DEPENDING ON THE POLITICAL EVOLUTION HERE. TO WAIT MUCH LONGER WOULD PUT IT TOO CLOSE TO MY DEPARTURE, AND AGAIN GIVE RISE TO SPECULATION ON U.S. POLICY.

5. MY FUTURE: IN LIGHT OF PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, AND THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF MY NEW POSITION I HAVE THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS.

- (A) NO ANNOUNCEMENT BE MADE UNTIL IT IS ESTABLISHED THAT THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION TO MY CONFIRMATION.
  - (B) MY TRANSFER TO WASHINGTON NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL I AM CONFIRMED. AN INTERIM ASSIGNMENT WOULD SMACK OF SUBTERFUGE.
  - (C) I BE PUT ON TDY FROM END OF DECEMBER UNTIL CONFIRMATION. I RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS NOT NORMALLY DONE FOR WASHINGTON ASSIGNMENTS BUT FEW SUCH ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION, AND VIRTUALLY NONE TO THE POTENTIAL CONFIRMATION PITFALLS AS THIS ONE. I CANNOT MAKE DEFINITE PLANS TO SETTLE IN WASHINGTON UNTIL CONFIRMED.
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TO PUT ME ON THE SAME FOOTING AS OTHER FSO'S TRANSFERRED TO WASHINGTON MY PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT SHOULD TERMINATE AND MY TEMPORARY LODGING START THE DAY MY WASHINGTON ASSIGNMENT IS DECIDED, I.E., THE DAY I AM CONFIRMED. IF THIS CANNOT BE DONE I WOULD PREFER TO STAY HERE UNTIL CONFIRMATION HEARINGS.

CARLUCCI

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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